



Security Council

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Official communiqué of the 6806th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

**Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday,
18 July 2012, at 10 a.m.**

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

“On 18 July 2012, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 6806th meeting in private with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

“The Security Council and the troop- and police-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Ms. Margaret Carey, Director of the Africa I Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

“Members of the Council, Ms. Carey and representatives of participating contributing countries had an exchange of views.”





Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6807th meeting

Wednesday, 18 July 2012, 11.30 a.m.

New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Osorio	(Colombia)
<i>Members:</i>	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Ms. Parkar
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	South Africa	Mr. Laher
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Libya

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

12-42614 (E)



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The meeting was called to order at 11.45 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Ian Martin, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Martin.

Mr. Martin: When I briefed the Council for the first time after Libya's declaration of liberation last October (see S/PV.6639), I said that its people may seek lessons from us in the detail of democracy, but they can offer lessons in its spirit. On 7 July, that spirit was displayed in a manner that deeply impressed all observers. Libyan men and women, young and old, amassed in queues at polling centres to cast their votes and then displayed their inked fingers with the pride and emotion of people who had so long been denied democratic freedoms, many of whose families had suffered and sacrificed loved ones for the right they were at last able to exercise. Where violence threatened the poll, it was the determination and the courage of the voters themselves that successfully resisted it.

Starting from a complete dearth of electoral experience and a hugely demanding timetable, the organization of the elections was an extraordinary accomplishment. A total of 2,501 candidates, including 84 women, took part as individuals in the majoritarian race, while 1,207 candidates, including 545 women, contested the proportional representation race on the lists of political entities. The campaign period proceeded smoothly, with no conflicts between candidates or their supporters, very few allegations of misconduct, a spirit of goodwill among political entities, and observance of the voluntary code of conduct that the United Nations

Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) had helped to facilitate.

The period leading up to the polls was, however, marred by violent incidents, mostly concentrated in the east of the country, as a number of grievances — principally the allocation of seats — were advanced as justification for seeking to disrupt the elections. Efforts to sabotage electoral preparations included a fire that destroyed ballot papers for 46 polling centres two days prior to election day, and on the eve of the poll a helicopter transporting electoral materials was fired on, killing one electoral official. Materials en route to polling centres faced road blocks.

But the Higher National Electoral Commission and its dedicated staff persisted in the face of such challenges. Ballot papers were reprinted that same day under the United Nations contract and flown in from Dubai. Polling centres that were unable to open on time remained open late or opened the next day. Attacks on polling centres on election day — notably in Benghazi — failed to derail the poll. The determination of Libyans to exercise their hard-won right to vote helped to overcome all attempts to deprive them of it.

There was reason to fear that the local conflicts on which I reported in my last briefing (see S/PV.6768) could have affected the election in the localities concerned. Indeed, that fear was enhanced by a fresh resurgence of fighting in the Nafusa Mountains between the Zintan and Mashashiya tribes, and in Kufra. But all situations were sufficiently stabilized for polling to take place on 7 July, except for two polling centres in Kufra. There, concerted efforts — in which UNSMIL was closely involved — led to agreement between the Tabu leadership and the Electoral Commission to enable voting on 10 and 11 July. That was a further indication of the commitment of the Commission to an inclusive election, which had led it to put in place special measures for internally displaced Tawerghas, Tuaregs and Mashashiyas to be able to vote.

The Commission and Libyan civil society are also to be commended on the transparency of the election. Over 20,000 domestic observers and party agents were accredited, as well as 180 international observers. The statements of domestic observer groups, as well as preliminary statements from the African Union, the League of Arab States, the European Union and the Carter Center, have been generally positive, with helpful recommendations for future electoral processes.

Following a high level of registration of 2.8 million voters, over 1.7 million — some 62 per cent — cast their votes. Women mobilized as candidates, supporters and civil society activists throughout the electoral process, with many activities to develop skills and share experience, often supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Subject to the certification of the results, it appears that 33 women have been elected to the 200-member National Congress, 32 on the lists of political entities and one as an individual candidate.

The Council is right to have recognized already the remarkable work of the Higher National Electoral Commission. The relationship between the Commission and the integrated United Nations electoral support team, which peaked at some 55 international electoral staff, deployed in Benghazi and Sabha as well as Tripoli, has been exemplary. The experience gained in what I have called the detail of democracy has been of immense future value to the new Libya. We are discussing how that capacity can be carried forward and further developed with United Nations support in the period ahead.

The Electoral Commission released partial results as soon as they were available, and last night was able to announce full preliminary results. Only a small number of complaints have been lodged, but the Commission's decisions must be ruled upon by the courts within a 14-day period, if fully appealed, before the Commission can certify the final results. Then the National Transitional Council (NTC) will convene the first meeting of the National Congress, and will itself be dissolved, while the National Congress will proceed to hold its inaugural session. UNSMIL and UNDP have been providing support to the NTC's preparations to facilitate the transition and stand ready to support the new members and secretariat of the National Congress. That will be the first peaceful and democratic transfer of power in Libya. Its new political leaders must then reach agreement on the formation of a new Government and on the process for drawing up a new constitution.

In order to meet concerns in the east of Libya that it was allocated fewer seats in the National Congress than the more populous west, the NTC decided that the constitution should be drafted not by the National Congress itself, but by a separate 60-member constitutional commission, with equal representation from Libya's three historic regions. It further assured the east that it would choose its own 20 representatives,

and then, on the eve of the National Congress election, decided that the members of the constitution-making body should be directly elected on a regional basis. If the new National Congress upholds that decision, it would significantly lengthen the timeline for the constitutional process.

The overwhelming success of the elections has shown that the majority of the Libyan people, including in the east, were determined to take part in Libya's first democratic steps, and UNSMIL was consistent in its messages to actors in the east to desist from any acts of violence. But the strength of feeling regarding past marginalization of the east is widely shared there and requires political solutions. There is now a new opportunity to channel the debate on representation and governance structures through a political dialogue and the constitution-making process. Already Libya's emerging political forces are opening the doors for such dialogue. United Nations efforts to support the constitution-making process and to ensure a coordinated approach by the international community are already under way and will include such direct assistance to the constitution-drafting body as may be requested, programmes to promote civic education and public discussion of constitutional issues, and technical support for the eventual referendum.

Even more urgent than launching the constitution-making process is the task of reaching sufficient agreement in the National Congress on the formation of a new Government, with a new prime minister to be chosen within one month from its first meeting. The interim Government is expected to remain in office until the new Government is formed and is preparing a smooth handover. New ministers will begin with a better legacy than the institutional void that greeted their predecessors, but there is no underestimating the challenges and the expectations that the new Government will face.

Foremost among those is security — the issue which all agree was uppermost in the minds of voters. Contrary to some reporting, Libya's revolutionary brigades do not seek to remain in separate existence and to challenge State authority, but a Government with full legitimacy and a longer time-horizon has been awaited to address their future. Libya's citizens overwhelmingly want the rule of law to prevail, in a weapons-free environment, where police respond to crime and only State authorities arrest and detain suspects. Where local conflicts erupt, they want the

rapid deployment of neutral, trusted security forces to maintain peace while underlying causes are addressed. Especially in the south, they want Libya's borders to be secured against the trafficking of persons, drugs and weapons.

Meeting those challenges will require a more systematic and comprehensive look at the overall national security and defence structure, beyond ad hoc or short-term initiatives in support of the police or the armed forces. That must include the development of a national security strategy, improved inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the security sector, and the avoidance of fragmenting command and control structures among agencies. The efforts to date to integrate revolutionaries and brigades have lacked an overall concept and coordination, and need urgent review as part of the security reform agenda for the police and defence forces, including integrated border security and management.

Under resolution 2040 (2012), UNSMIL has been mandated to assist the Libyan Government in developing police and security institutions that are capable, accountable, respectful of human rights and accessible and responsive to women and vulnerable groups. Over recent months, UNSMIL has worked with the Libyan authorities and international partners towards the development of a first-ever defence white paper for Libya. The white paper will serve to identify the main risks and threats facing Libya, and to lay out the principal military tasks, doctrine and vision, civilian democratic oversight, overall command and control issues, and basic structure of the armed forces, including their relationship with the Ministry of Defence and the future parliament. To that end, UNSMIL facilitated two strategic planning workshops with Libyan and international experts, in May and July, where participation included the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence, the Chief of Staff, the Deputy Minister of the Interior, senior defence staff and representatives of other ministries. Key tasks in the months ahead will be the building of a functioning Ministry of Defence that can fulfil its civilian oversight and planning role; ensuring joint command and control of all defence forces, including for borders and strategic installations; reviewing the existing legal framework governing the defence forces; providing inputs to the constitutional process; and developing quick-training options for the armed forces and senior defence officials. With the immediate priority of election

security now behind us, UNSMIL is proposing to assist the Ministry of Interior in conducting an equivalent strategic review, towards the modernization of the Libyan police force. That review will complement the current assistance and advice of UNSMIL on police training and administration.

The lack of advances in the area of border security and management remains of deep concern to the international community and to Libyans. While the integrated border management assessment has now been completed by the European Union, progress in this critical area has been inhibited by internal Libyan disagreements over command and control structures and a lack of coordination and cooperation between the different security agencies. As a result, there exists no integrated concept for border security. The protection of the southern border remains a priority for Libyans, in view of concerns over arms, drugs and human trafficking, irregular migration, and the spread of transnational organized crime throughout the Sahel. However, the Government has yet to fulfil its expressed intention to develop an integrated southern border action plan. Such an approach would help galvanize bilateral and multilateral assistance and minimize the risk of fragmentation in the security sector.

The clearance of explosive remnants of war and the accounting, safe storage and control of weapons remain key concerns in many communities throughout the country. Through the United Nations Mine Action Service, UNSMIL has been working closely with the Libyan armed forces and certain brigades to develop safe arms and ammunition storage areas. Efforts in that area have also been inhibited by unclear allocations of responsibility and lack of coordination among various Libyan actors. UNSMIL has been working with the Office of the Prime Minister to develop arrangements that would coordinate all Libyan and international efforts in the areas of mine action, small arms and light weapons, ammunition storage and related chemical and nuclear materials. UNSMIL has also urged the Government to establish clear and transparent coordination procedures for the purchase or gifting of international security assistance, including weapons and equipment, to various security bodies.

Closely related to the issue of security is that of justice. Progress, in that regard, has also been disappointing, and a new Government must bring stronger efforts. More robust prosecuting authorities, functioning and protected courts, and an expanded

and better trained judicial police are essential to overcome multiple challenges: the need to bring to justice within the law those accused of serious crimes, and thus discourage and prevent unlawful arrests and detention; the need to review the cases of those detained since the end of the conflict and release those against whom there is no evidence, at the same time as commencing fair trial proceedings against those whom there is evidence of the worst crimes; and the need to take into proper State custody those still held by the brigades and protect the physical integrity of any detainee anywhere in Libya. The capacity to do justice is essential to reconciliation — not just as a matter of theory or principle, but as a very practical matter of how to resolve recent local conflicts. UNSMIL continues to give priority to its support in those areas. When human rights violations have been widespread, criminal justice needs to be complemented with a wider truth-seeking process. UNSMIL is supporting the fact-finding and reconciliation commission in taking the initial steps towards implementing its mandate.

Amid continuing human rights abuses, there are also positive pointers to the defence of human rights in the new Libya. The Supreme Court struck down the law passed by the NTC entitled "Criminalizing the Glorification of the Dictator", which would have threatened the freedom of expression. The nascent civil society, particularly of women's groups, which has been energized by the elections, could increasingly find cause in human rights advocacy. UNSMIL continues to provide support to building civil society's capacity to monitor and report on violations, as well as to provide support to victims. Among newly elected members of the National Congress are individuals with records as human rights defenders.

Of course, Libya faces many challenges in addition to those of security and justice. Among those challenges are the development of the institutions of a modern State, while changing the outlook of an old and bloated bureaucracy; the diversification of the economy and the creation of employment opportunities, especially for the youth, while fighting corruption in the management of the nation's wealth; and the proper regulation of migrant labour in a manner that is to the advantage of Libya and its neighbours, while respecting the human rights of migrants. The successful election has further enhanced expectations, but these are tasks that will extend far beyond the term of the next Government.

Resolution 2040 (2012) anticipates a possible review and adjustment of the UNSMIL mandate after engagement with the new Libyan Government in order to ensure that it continues effectively to support Libya's specific needs. Such engagement is unlikely to be able to begin before September, although, of course, we are already in dialogue with the new political actors. There is no reason to think that the areas of the UNSMIL mandate will cease to be valid or that Libyan authorities and civil society will cease to be open to United Nations assistance in the areas where we are already active: support to the further stages of the democratic transition; promoting the rule of law and human rights; restoring public security; and countering the illicit proliferation of arms. There may well be additional requests for support to UNSMIL and to the United Nations country team. The Mission concept of flexibility, using a range of modalities to mobilize the surge capacity of technical expertise, was designed to be able to respond accordingly throughout 2012.

The fifth element of the mandate, namely, support to Libyan efforts to coordinate international assistance, has two requirements beyond the capabilities of UNSMIL: the coordination capacity of the Libyan authorities themselves and their desire to deal with the international community in a coordinated manner; and the commitment of international actors to cooperate in a framework of United Nations-led coordination. Such efforts have been relatively strong in some areas, such as electoral support, and the sectoral working groups established by the Ministry of Planning and supported by the United Nations should be a valuable legacy to the new Government. They have been weaker in other areas, notably the security sector, where bilateral interests are strong. At a time when a new context will present new needs and opportunities for the sharing of international experience and best practice, I believe that Libya will be best served by the recommitment of all concerned to the United Nations playing the central role in supporting Libyan efforts to coordinate international assistance.

I expect this to be the last time that I brief the Council on Libya. When I first travelled to Benghazi last year to meet the National Transitional Council (NTC) and to discuss possible United Nations assistance to Libya once the fighting ended, I could not have imagined how far Libya would have come by today. In their new mood of holding their leaders strictly to account, Libyans have sometimes been strongly critical of the NTC and

the interim Government, and I have been frank today about some of the issues yet to be adequately addressed. However, at this moment of a peaceful and democratic transition to the new authorities, Libya stands well in comparison to any post-conflict context.

Since polling day, I have had meetings with Chairman Mustafa Abdul Jalil and Prime Minister Abdurrahim El-Keib. Both expressed their warm appreciation of the role of the United Nations in the transition. In conveying that to the Council, I put on record my own appreciation of the open and constructive relationship that the United Nations in Libya has had with them and their colleagues. I also thank members of the Council for the unanimous support that I have always felt that they have given to the work of UNSMIL.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Martin for his briefing. Allow me to say that I believe that I reflect the sentiment of Council members in demonstrating our appreciation for his invaluable contribution to Libya's reconstruction process and his outstanding dedication in carrying out a task under extreme difficulty and not without risks. I am certain that the Government and the Libyan people fully appreciate his support in this historic transition phase of the country.

I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Libya.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to address the Security Council. I promise that I will be brief.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I am certain that you will execute the task excellently. I thank Mr. Martin for his briefing to the Council this morning.

The initial election results were announced in Tripoli this morning. According to all observers, the elections were free and fair and met all international standards. The Libyan people would not have reached this point without the many sacrifices made and the many sons lost in getting rid of the dictator Al-Qadhafi,

who treated Libyans as his personal slaves for more than 40 years and who killed anyone who dared to speak against his regime or in favour of democracy.

Today, as the Libyan people take firm steps forward on the path towards democracy and the establishment of a modern State, on behalf of the Libyan people, I cannot fail to thank Security Council members for adopting resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), as well as subsequent resolutions on Libya, in particular those that established the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (resolution 2009 (2011) and extended its mandate (resolutions 2022 (2011) and 2040 (2012)). The roles of the Security Council and its resolutions have contributed in a major way to Libya's transformation today.

On this occasion, I would like to commend the significant role that the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has played in Libya under the leadership of Mr. Ian Martin, whose diplomatic skills and profound experience contributed to the success of the Mission's mandate. Mr. Martin has succeeded in establishing close cooperation between UNSMIL and the Libyan authorities in all areas that fall within the Mission's mandate. Mr. Martin's role was indeed exceptional. We in Libya compare it to the role of Adrian Pelt, United Nations Commissioner for Libya, shortly before the country's independence in the 1950s.

Again, on behalf of the Libyan people, I thank Mr. Martin. We wish him success in the future. We had hoped to see Mr. Martin continuing to lead UNSMIL in Libya through to the conclusion of its mandate. It is undoubtedly a matter for Mr. Martin to decide. We hope that UNSMIL will continue to be led with the same skills and capabilities in assisting the Libyan authorities to achieve genuine democracy and the establishment of a modern State.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.



Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6808th meeting

Wednesday, 18 July 2012, 3 p.m.

New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Osorio	(Colombia)
<i>Members:</i>	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Germany	Mr. Eick
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Raguttahalli
	Morocco	Mr. Taib
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Gaspar da Silva
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	South Africa	Mr. Laher
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations
Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2012/506)

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12-42620 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2012/506)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Albert Koenders, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/506, which contains the thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

I now give the floor to Mr. Koenders.

Mr. Koenders: It is a great honour for me to address the Security Council today following my last briefing on 26 January 2012 (see S/PV.6708).

The thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) (S/2012/506), which is before the Security Council, provides members with an update on major developments in the country since the Secretary-General's special report of 29 March 2012 (S/2012/186).

My briefing today will focus on the most crucial issues of the moment for Côte d'Ivoire, particularly with regard to the security situation, the political situation and activities undertaken by the Government, with UNOCI's support, to put the country back on the path to peace and stability.

I would like to start by saying that, as mentioned in my recent briefings to the Council, Côte d'Ivoire is making significant advances on the path to peace, stability and development. The economy is recovering,

the country is progressively reintegrating into the West African region, and the overall security situation has improved since the end of the post-electoral crisis last year. Moreover, further to the legislative elections, the National Assembly began its work in April, with a commitment from its President for the Assembly to contribute to national reconciliation and provide effective oversight of the Government on behalf of the Ivorian people.

Yet, this positive picture should not obscure the fact that the country continues to face important challenges and significant threats as it transitions to a peacebuilding phase. In the past couple of weeks, the country has been characterized by a certain degree of political anxiety, showing that the root causes of the conflict — land-related issues, unreformed security forces, impunity, and lack of national reconciliation and political dialogue — need to be tackled urgently and in a transparent manner to the benefit of all Ivorians.

First, with regard to the security situation, it remains particularly volatile, especially but not exclusively in the west, at the Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia border, given the weak State authorities, large numbers of weapons, armed elements, former combatants, militias and dozos, as well as competition over the control of resources. Reports of the rearming and recruitment of former Ivorian and Liberian combatants and possible attempts against State security constitute matters of substantial concern for me. Attacks by armed men have been carried out in the villages in the border area, which is often characterized by violent inter-communal confrontations that have the potential to escalate into larger-scale conflicts as long as the underlying root causes, such as land tenure issues, are not effectively tackled.

The situation experienced a dramatic deterioration last month when seven United Nations peacekeepers from Niger lost their lives in an attack by armed elements on the road from Para to Sao, along the border with Liberia, showing the need for continuous vigilance and enhanced action to ensure the protection of civilians. The Government has strengthened its military presence and established a commission to investigate the Para attack, and UNOCI is providing technical assistance and forensics support.

In response to the incidents in the west, UNOCI has boosted its military on the ground by reinforcing troops within Sector West, in line with our operational

imperative to protect civilians and firmly deter any initiative to destabilize the country in different parts of Côte d'Ivoire. We are working closely with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to coordinate our activities, for which a detailed plan of action has been developed.

On their part, the Ivorian and Liberian Governments have increased their military presence in the concerned area and are liaising closely to exchange information. Of special note are an action plan adopted by UNOCI and UNMIL and a quadripartite meeting comprising the Governments of the two countries, as well as UNOCI and UNMIL, that was held in Abidjan on 14 June — just a few days after the attacks — and resulted in an agreement between the parties to further enhance cooperation, including by reinforcing their presence on both sides of the border, intensified air and foot patrols, and activities to protect civilians, strengthened judicial cooperation, and measures to promote reconciliation and development.

The need to combine firmness and vigilance, and to call on the Government to further increase its civilian presence, invest in development and ensure the equitable treatment concerning the land issue cannot be overemphasized at this stage. In particular, there is in our view an urgent need to tackle the root causes of the conflict and promote reconciliation through concrete measures at the national level, while prioritizing the strengthening of the rule of law and the restoration of State authority. It is important that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire place increasing emphasis on this very burning issue.

National reconciliation is key to any process aimed at stabilization and peacebuilding. In this regard, the need for substantive genuine political dialogue remains paramount. On 27 and 28 April, a conclave chaired by the Prime Minister was held in Grand-Bassam, with the participation of the opposition parties, which resulted subsequently in a communiqué announcing the establishment of a follow-up mechanism for ongoing dialogue through which the Government and opposition have an opportunity to continue their exchanges. Yet, a new momentum should be created to allow the constructive engagement of all parties in political dialogue. All parties should strengthen their political will to engage in a well-formulated agenda for a serious political dialogue.

The Government's initiative to engage in dialogue with the political opposition is a positive step. It is

important now that the Government continue working towards genuine political dialogue and reconciliation at all levels, and ensure political space for the opposition by clarifying the context and timetable for these consultations and taking reconciliatory measures where and when possible. At the same time, the opposition should play the role of a constructive opposition, use reconciliatory language, and contribute towards building a better future for the country and reconciliation.

The upcoming local elections, for which the Government has requested United Nations assistance, could contribute to strengthening national reconciliation at the local level. However, if these elections are to be successful, it is necessary that certain conditions be met in terms of a larger responsibility of the Ivorian Government and clarity on proper timing, inclusiveness and security, as well as allowing for the reform of the electoral and administrative bodies concerned. It is only under clearly specified conditions related to these issues that any possible UNOCI support should be considered and given the means in financial, administrative and military terms to do undertake such tasks.

Successful national reconciliation also requires the promotion of a culture of respect for human rights. It is of crucial importance that the progress made be solidified, that impunity for human rights violations end, that perpetrators be brought to justice irrespective of their status or political affiliation, that all detainees receive clarity about their status, and that the investigation commission speed up its work. UNOCI remains preoccupied about this situation and asks the Security Council to pay special attention to this important issue.

It is worth noting that, as indicated by the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, many human rights violations resulted less from the State's complicity than from its failure to prevent them, especially owing to the slow progress in reforming the security sector and restoring State authority throughout the country. Thus, efforts that could speed up security sector reform (SSR) and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) should be encouraged. In this regard, I wish to highlight the positive steps taken by President Ouattara to further the SSR and DDR agenda, including the creation of an inter-ministerial working group to develop a national framework for SSR and DDR. UNOCI stands ready to continue assisting the Government's efforts to make

SSR and DDR a reality, which requires a unified DDR entity, strict rules on eligibility, and a reliable base.

In this complex phase, it is important that the United Nations continue to play its supportive role in assisting the Government's efforts to stabilize the security situation, protect civilians, restore State authority, promote reconciliation, and undertake post-conflict development assistance. In order to maximize its impact in these areas, UNOCI, together with the United Nations country team, is reinforcing its field presence. We have opened field offices with our military, police and civilian personnel presence in Guiglo, Tabou, Taï and Toulepleu — some of the villages that members of the Security Council visited during the impressive mission that they undertook to Côte d'Ivoire in May. We will soon be opening additional offices and strengthening existing ones to enhance closer cooperation and coordination within the United Nations family, within existing resources. Our action is based on continuous vigilance, research for political solutions and efforts to enhance reconciliation as key to accomplishing our tasks successfully.

In conclusion, let me say that the continued support of the Security Council is at this stage still crucial in order to ensure that we, together, successfully tackle the generalized risks that are typical of countries transitioning to a peacebuilding phase. I remain convinced that, with the Council's support, we can make a positive contribution to making Côte d'Ivoire a success story for its own people and, we hope, for the United Nations as a whole.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Koenders for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Bamba (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): I have just returned from Addis Ababa and took a taxi directly to the Council from John F. Kennedy Airport, so I would ask members to bear with me.

Mr. President, my delegation would like to congratulate you on your accession to the presidency of the Council for the month of July. My delegation has taken note of the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2012/506), whose mandate ends on 31 July, pursuant to resolution 2000 (2011). We also listened attentively and with

interest to the briefing just delivered by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Koenders.

My delegation recalls the joy and great pride of the people of Côte d'Ivoire during the working visit of all 15 members of the Security Council to our country a few weeks ago. At that time, every member had the opportunity to understand and appreciate the gratitude felt by the people of Côte d'Ivoire towards the Council, whose commitment to and determined support for the will of the majority of the sovereign Ivorian people have allowed democracy to prevail in Côte d'Ivoire since the elections and especially to provide effective protection to the civilian population.

During that visit, the Council was able to see for itself the progress that has been made on the ground since the elections, as well as the challenges that still lie ahead. The Council had transparent and exhaustive exchanges with the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Alassane Ouattara, who presented his post-crisis vision for Côte d'Ivoire and his plans to make it an emerging country by 2020. He naturally responded to the questions raised by the Security Council and was able to clarify some issues. The Council also had instructive exchanges with members of the current and previous Governments, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and civil society.

Lastly, the Council made field trips, in particular the west of the country and to an Ivorian refugee camp on the border inside Liberian territory. The Security Council is thus fully aware of the realities on the Côte d'Ivoire agenda. That said, I would like to make a few remarks on specific issues, especially in the light of recent developments.

First, the security situation throughout the country has improved considerably. Life in Abidjan and other large cities has been revitalized, with a perceptible sense of economic recovery and growth, as the report underscores. However, the security situation in the country's western region remains a source of concern. Indeed, the attacks of 8 June and subsequent days in villages of the Taï region, perpetrated by armed groups from Liberia and in which seven Blue Helmets from Niger, several civilians and soldiers of the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI) lost their lives, have harshly illuminated the nature of the action that took place there and the objectives of those who would destabilize the situation.

Clearly, the criminal acts of these armed groups were perfectly planned and coordinated to exploit the effect of surprise, and designed to strike fear into the hearts of the civilian population. It is also well known to all that such armed groups receive financial aid from exiled Ivorians and illegal mining operations. Some of those who funded and organized the attacks have been identified and apprehended. In that context, on 12 June the Minister of the Interior revealed the existence of a plot against the State following the arrest in a foreign country and extradition to Côte d'Ivoire of a former minister and crony of Mr. Gbagbo. Here, my delegation pays tribute to the memory of the seven UNOCI soldiers and wishes to assure the Council that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has spared no effort to find the perpetrators of these war crimes and bring them to justice.

In the light of these attacks, my country has strengthened its cooperation with Liberia in the areas of defence, justice and law enforcement. The Special Representative reported on cooperation activities involving the missions in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. Quadripartite meetings have been held to address a joint response to the threats. It has also been decided to convene a meeting of the Ivorian-Liberian Joint Commission of Cooperation before the end of the year. Meanwhile, it was agreed that judicial cooperation should be strengthened, and that a joint meeting of chiefs of staff and high-level officials in the communities along the border would be held to promote reconciliation and development activities.

As indicated in paragraph 56 of the report, we welcome the new provisions for cooperation between the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and UNOCI, and the fact that the United Nations country teams in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia will be strengthened to enhance their responsiveness to any possible attacks on either side of the border, especially through cross-border cooperation. My delegation also supports the Secretary-General's recommendation, also in paragraph 56, to transfer to UNOCI three attack helicopters currently deployed in UNMIL to improve the mission's deterrent and anticipation capacities.

The regional dimension of the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire is clear. Indeed, the early signs of the crises in Mali and Guinea-Bissau have accelerated the implementation of measures taken to respond to subregional threats. At a meeting in Abidjan on 13 March, the Mano River Union adopted an operational plan on

peace and security in order to respond to organized transnational crime and trafficking in West Africa. The plan provides for joint border patrols, strengthened information exchange and the establishment of joint units. Another useful measure was the Mano River Union summit held in Conakry on 15 June.

My second point, which is also a source of concern raised in the report, concerns security sector reform (SSR) and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). In my statement of April 26 (see S/PV.6761), I informed the Council about the creation of an SSR working group with a view both to identifying a definitive response to the problem of implementing DDR, and to undertaking serious consideration of security and defence mechanisms, not to mention all the various sectors involved in SSR.

In parallel with the efforts of the SSR working group, the Ministers of Defence and of the Interior, in their capacity as pillars of security sector reform, have launched projects within their respective departments. All of these groups have almost completed their work, which they will submit to the SSR scientific committee later this month. This period of intense reflection will lead to significant reforms aimed at maintaining peace, democracy and the safety and security of people and property. Those significant reforms are the result of work specifically focused on security sector reform, defence policies, the reintegration of former combatants and reform of the national police.

The SSR working group, in close cooperation with UNOCI, the United Nations Development Programme, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, identified six pillars of SSR. They are national security, the rule of law and international relations, democratic control, post-crisis reconstruction, economic policy and the social and human dimension.

After identifying challenges, needed reforms and action plans, proposals were submitted to the steering committee for consideration and validation. They focused on four areas: a national DDR policy, new strategies to implement it, a national SSR policy and a unified vision for reforms. Meanwhile, a national security council will be established to oversee DDR and SSR efforts, under the direct control of the President. In that way, DDR will be implemented by one single body, the DDR authority, attached to the President's office. SSR implementation will be assigned to a special minister charged with pursuing reforms in cooperation

with focal points in the various ministries. Each ministry will be responsible for reforms in its areas of focus.

The third element, as mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, is national reconciliation and political dialogue. The Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission is focused on long-term solutions, and is endowed with the means to broaden its audience and its actors. There is increasing ownership of grass-roots initiatives through inter-community dialogue strongly encouraged by the Commission. I note with pleasure that the Ivorian diaspora here in New York is particularly engaged in this issue.

As for the political process, the Council saw for itself the extremism of the former ruling party, the Front populaire ivoirien (FPI). Fortunately, there have been positive developments, and at the request of the FPI a frank and productive exchange took place two weeks ago between an FPI delegation and a Government delegation led by the Prime Minister. It is to be hoped that this will lead the FPI to participate fully in local elections in order to build itself a platform to take part in democratic politics, exercise its right to free speech and make its expected contribution to national reconstruction. In that context, my delegation seconds the report's recommendations to lend Côte d'Ivoire electoral support.

The fourth element is human rights. My delegation takes note of the concerns expressed in the report about human rights in Côte d'Ivoire. Without trying to downplay its observations, my delegation believes that it would be more appropriate to see things in their proper context. As noted by the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire following his two visits to the country, most human rights abuses are less the result of Government actions than of its inability to prevent them due, *inter alia*, to difficulties with SSR and the restoration of State authority throughout the national territory. We should not forget that it was not long ago that, in the aftermath of the electoral crisis, when President Ouattara and his Government took effective power, they inherited a veritable no man's land in the matter of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire.

It is important to remember that the 10 years of President Gbagbo's rule were a time of non-rule of law. During that time, the people of Côte d'Ivoire were the victims of the worst kinds of violations of human rights, perpetrated by death squads who kidnapped and

summarily executed people on the sole suspicion of being opposed to the regime or for the crime of being from the North. Confiscations and beatings, notably of an army colonel and a former Ivorian soccer star, were the norm. I say this to recall that President Ouattara took power in a country that had lost all respect for human rights. It is therefore all the more commendable that he showed the wisdom to immediately install a Minister for Human Rights to restore that element of society.

This situation, however, does not detract from the commitment of the President to restoring genuine rule of law in Côte d'Ivoire as soon as possible. President Ouattara is irreversibly committed to a policy of zero tolerance for impunity. That means that all proven perpetrators of crimes or human rights violations, regardless of political affiliation or any other consideration, will be brought to justice to answer for their actions. A strong military police unit was instituted to respond to that concern, and it has helped to fast-track prosecutions of troublemakers. Two hundred and fifty members of the FRCI have been arrested and will soon be tried.

Given the state of non-rule of law that prevailed in the past, the highest priority of the Minister for Human Rights was to work to train, educate and raise consciousness on this issue in all sectors of society, beginning with the police. I will cite some examples of actions taken, with the support of UNOCI, that illustrate the will of the Government to protect human rights.

On 14 and 15 October 2011, a workshop was held to train security, military and paramilitary forces in human rights. From 1 March until July, a human rights caravan traveled to the towns of Korhogo, Man, Gagnoa and Adzope, and will reach San Pedro by the end of the month. I also note the holding of a workshop to raise consciousness in the press and media on national and international human rights mechanisms.

Transitional justice is at work. Defendants accused of various crimes during the post-electoral crisis are included in human rights training and their rights and dignity are entirely respected. Two days ago, a detained former minister with a health condition that needed attention was admitted to one of the best clinics in the country to get the treatment she required. The Minister for Human Rights visited her there and spoke with her.

It is clear that human rights can be enjoyed only within a healthy legal and judicial environment. On 19 April, a national strategy for the justice sector from 2012 to 2015 was adopted, with the support of the Government, the United Nations and other partners in legal and judicial matters. That plan represents significant progress on judicial sector reform. UNOCI and the European Union have worked in close cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and other stakeholders involved in the strategy. To implement it, the Ministry of Justice is in the process of instituting, with the support of UNOCI, an action plan that will also serve as a road map for international partners supporting justice sector reform.

To conclude, I stress the importance Côte d'Ivoire attaches to its cooperation with the United Nations. Our Prime Minister reiterated that in a letter to the Secretary-General wherein he stated Côte d'Ivoire's request for the UNOCI mandate to be renewed, including electoral support for upcoming local elections. While we understand the constraints that

led the Secretary-General to propose a drawdown of the military component of UNOCI by one battalion, my delegation hopes that it will not be implemented at the time of mandate renewal, given the security situation and the need to avoid creating security gaps. Based on that same concern, my delegation believes that the francophone contingents of UNOCI should be bolstered so as to better fulfil the communication goals of the United Nations and UNOCI, in the interests of reconciliation and country-wide political dialogue.

These are the elements of the report that I wanted to bring to the Council's attention in the context of its forthcoming deliberations on this issue.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.